

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) In a data processing system, a method for pricing financial transactions, said method comprising:

creating, in a database system of the data processing system, a plurality of price tables;

creating, in the database system, a plurality of product rules each applicable to one or more of said financial transactions, wherein each of said product rules comprise a plurality of attributes, including mandatory and optional attributes, wherein said mandatory attributes specify (a) one or more entities to which said product rule pertains and (b) a scope of said product rule, wherein one of the optional attributes allows specifying one of said price tables, and wherein a search key is constructed for each product rule from one or more of said mandatory attributes to link one of said price tables; and

for each one of said financial transactions:

identifying an applicable one of said product rules for said transaction based on said mandatory attributes; and

pricing said transaction according to the price table linked to said identified applicable product rule.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price table ~~comprises~~ specifies a billing method.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~each of said product rules~~ said attributes comprises:
- a name of said product rule;
 - a status of said product rule;
 - pricing and billing information; and
 - display only information.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein each of said product rules is linked to one of said price tables by a price table name.
5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein an entry in each of said price tables ~~comprises~~ specifies a pricing method.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is flat fee.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is unit price.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is unit cost.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is volume discount.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is tiering.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is cost plus.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is minimum revenue.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is maximum revenue.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is markup of total price.
15. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is bundled pricing.
16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein said pricing method is bundled pricing across a group of accounts.
17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~said product rule further comprises a plurality of mandatory attributes, said~~ one of said mandatory attributes includes an identifier for said product rule.
18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, in creating one of said product rules, applying a validating rule to validate said product rules prior to committing said product rules to said database system.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product rules comprise a default product rule.
20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price table contains prices.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price table contains costs.
22. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price table contains negative values.
23. (Currently amended) A data processing system for pricing a financial transaction, said data processing system comprising:

means for creating one or more price tables in the data processing system;

means for creating ~~[[a]]~~ one or more product rules in the data processing system applicable to said financial transaction, each of said product rules comprises a plurality of mandatory attributes and a plurality of optional attributes, wherein said mandatory attributes specify (a) one or more entities to which said product rule pertains and (b) a scope of said product rule, wherein one of the optional attributes allows specifying one of said price tables;

~~means for creating a price table in the data processing system;~~

means for creating a search key for each product rule, said search key being constructed from one or more of said mandatory ~~and optional~~ attributes ~~to link said product rule to said price table;~~

means for identifying an applicable one of said product rules for said transaction based on said mandatory attributes; and

means for calculating a price for said financial transaction using said identified product rule ~~by identifying said product rule~~ and accessing said price table specified in said product rule ~~via said link~~.

24. (Original) The data processing system of Claim 23, further comprising means for billing.

25. (Previously presented) The data processing system of Claim 23, wherein means for creating a product rule comprises:

means for assigning a name to said product rule;

means for assigning a status to a product rule;

means for associating with said product rule pricing and billing information;

and

means for associating said product rule with display only information.

26. (Original) The data processing system of Claim 23, further comprising means for creating an identifier for said product rule using said mandatory attributes.

27. (Original) The data processing system of Claim 26, further comprising means for looking up said optional attributes using said identifier.

28. (Previously presented) The data processing system of Claim 23, further comprising means for applying validation rule to validate said product rules before committing said product rule to a database.

29. (Original) The data processing system of Claim 23, further comprising means for creating a default product rule.